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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: TAL AFAR SITREP: SEPT. 13, 2005

Classified By: Political-Military Affairs Counselor David C. Litt
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

-- (S) MNF-I reports sporadic gunfire in Tal Afar, but overall very little action. Continued consensus is that the AIF leadership has fled, with only low-level fighters remaining.

-- (S) Shops are reported opening up in portions of the city with civilians moving about in certain sections of town.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- (U) PM al-Jaafari made a highly-publicized visit to Tal Afar on Sep 12, meeting with the Iraqi Army commander, Ninawah province governor, Tal Afar mayor, and local leaders.

-- (U) ITG announced it will allocate \$50m for Tal Afar reconstruction. It is expected that reconstruction efforts will continue to ramp up in the coming weeks.

HUMANITARIAN/REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS

-- (U) Tal Afar's medical facilities are operational with 23 ambulances, functioning clinics and adequate supplies. Additional equipment and pharmaceuticals, if needed, are available in Mosul. Lack of civilian casualties in the clinics reflect the discipline of the Coalition forces.

-- (SBU) Food stocks appear sufficient, but problems continue with its distribution to which ITG is working to correct. Transportation remains a challenge within the city.

-- (SBU) International Medical Corps (IMC) reports that IDPs are reporting harassment and theft by Iraqi Police at the edge of the city. These allegations are still unconfirmed, but they are numerous.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEVELOPMENTS

-- (U) The usual Arab media outlets that present distorted and untrue anti-American reports continue about Tal Afar. However, there have been no further false allegations of Coalition Forces using chemical weapons.
Satterfield